

List of Claims

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method of making an axial piston pump barrel, comprising the steps of:

positioning a central bore core in a mold;

positioning a ring shaped core in the mold to encircle the central bore core;

pouring metal around a the ring shaped core and the central bore core to produce a casting; and

removing the ring shaped core from the casting.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 including a step of supporting said ring shaped core in a mold atop a plurality of pillars.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 including a step of forming said ring shaped core to include a ring portion and a plurality of pillars extending away from said ring portion parallel to one another.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 including a step of mating said plurality of pillars to counterpart pillar bores in a base core.

16. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said removing step includes a step of breaking said ring shaped core into smaller pieces.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 12 ~~wherein said casting step includes a step of casting metal around at least one central bore core including a step of machining a plurality of parallelly oriented openings in the casting.~~

18. (original) The method of claim 12 including a step of attaching a plurality of check valves to the casting.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 including a step of machining a conical valve seat for each of said plurality of check valves.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein said attaching step includes a step of positioning each of said check valves in contact with one of said conical valves seats.